

Chaparral Park

The development of Indian Bend Wash during the 60s into an engineered flood management system that also provided the community with a recreational amenity and attractive greenbelt was an innovative solution to the damage and community disconnection wreaked by flooding over time. Now, 40 years later, this 30-acre park renovation, water treatment facility, multi-use ball-field and off-leash activity area project offers a unique opportunity to demonstrate our ever-expanding knowledge about how to harness and manage our water resources, and to further enhance the quality of place already enjoyed by large numbers of Scottsdale residents. Through extensive public meetings with the neighbors and special interest groups we have developed the following, with the users needs in mind, as three primary zones of the Chaparral Park Extension project:

I. Xeriscape Demonstration Garden

Since the new water treatment facility and existing residential community are situated seven to eight feet above the wash, and given a program requirement to provide a **xeriscape demonstration garden**, we propose the following:

- **Terraced gardens** would be constructed of gabions filled with river rock (transitioning architecture with the landscape) create stepped ribbons of lush, xeric plant material that act as living 'bio-sponges' to soak up and harvest rainwater and to create habitat for a myriad of native wildlife. This landscape treatment suggests a viable solution to existing erosion and turf management problems along the slopes of the greenbelt - making the park experience more interesting while demonstrating water conservation practices.
- **Interesting gathering spaces** were requested by the client for classroom activities, special events and just sitting in the shade to observe plantings and wildlife habitat. By carving into the existing slopes with landscaped terraces, outdoor spaces are created that are integrated with the earth.
 1. the **reservoir** - a newly shaped irrigation pond designed to alleviate evaporation and leaking. The new clean, oval shape nestles into the topography like an emerald egg, repeating the forms used further south in the park project. This is not a gathering space but rather a place to be viewed from the adjacent paths and Hayden and MacDonald Road.
 2. the **cistern** - a renewing, celebratory space adjacent to the water treatment facility under the shade of a beautiful tensile structure and trees where park users contemplate the beauty and mystery of a sacred vessel of fluctuating water. Quotes are subtly sandblasted in to the paving that express the value of our most precious resource.

3. the **grotto** – under existing cottonwood trees at a low place in the existing grade, this shady, outdoor learning space is sculpturally carved into the existing slope and gardens
 4. the **sponge labyrinth** – a labyrinth-like path leads gently down through a garden of water-absorbing riparian grasses and mesquites to a low point where the water returns to the earth
- An **extensive rainwater harvesting system / bio-sponge** exemplifies how rain water runoff can be diverted to trees and shrubs in the xeriscape garden. Rain water from the roof of the water treatment facility building is collected and dispersed through a series of planted swales and diversion headers that run through the terraced garden spaces. In this way, the hardscape is woven into the garden form and the terraced gardens become a living 'bio-sponge.'
 - **Luminarias** made of rebar 'ghost culverts' will act as evocative sculptural markers at special nodes throughout the garden to acknowledge the engineering vision that Indian Bend Wash stands for by letting drainage be exposed rather than remaining unseen in culverts and pipes.
 - **Paths**, both paved and non-paved, would meander through these gardens at the lower elevations, away from nearby neighbors, which will exhibit xeriscape principles to those passing by and provide an opportunity to observe hummingbirds, butterflies and other wildlife. As retaining walls meet paths, they become cast-in-place concrete seatwalls.

II. Off-Leash Activity Area

The immense popularity of this now-temporary facility calls for ample room for fun for dogs and humans. As one enters the parking area (203 total spaces – 99 dedicated to the off-leash area), a raised walkway slows traffic and leads dogs and humans to the new 4-acre dog park. Proposed elements include:

- **New permanent fencing** constructed of architectural steel mesh. Probably the most prominent design element in the park, it is important that the fence be as attractive and transparent as possible. Its panels must also be specially designed to be 'openable' at times of severe flooding. Extensive research has shown that the 'Legi' and 'Omega' fence systems will meet these requirements and also be economically feasible.

These fence systems are similar in appearance and ease of construction. Both offer a well-crafted, aesthetically pleasing alternative to chain link. The inherent structural integrity of the steel mesh design eliminates the need for a top rail, without which the fence appears to be a veil that slips through the landscape, calling less attention to itself. It also allows the panels to be made more easily and economically 'openable' than a permanent chain link system that requires instead a series of gates constructed along its length.

We propose that for maintenance, economic and aesthetic reasons the fence finish be a natural galvanized metal that soon weathers to a subtle gray. This natural metal finish is well integrated with the all-natural palette of colors and materials proposed throughout the park and will be more sustainable and long-lasting than vinyl, poly- or powdercoated finishes.

- A **dog plaza / orientation zone** creates an entry threshold to the off-leash area. At the center of the space are a sculptural kiosk, two dog wash stations, a dog hitching post and a canine/human drinking fountain. Engraved in the paving is a quote about the value of man's best friend. This non-turf, semi-paved space also serves to disperse both dogs and humans out into the park, alleviating over-trampling and subsequent maintenance problems experienced at too-constricted entry areas into dog parks nationwide.
- **Three off-leash zones** that vary in size from ¾ acre to over an acre. Each zone is gated, and in addition to plenty of lawn running area, each has its own sandy dog play zone for digging, climbing on large boulders and going through tunnels. Being able to close one zone on a rotating basis and simultaneously keep two others open will allow park personnel to best maintain turf conditions throughout.

III. Ballfields / Restrooms / Maintenance Building

Also included in the park renovation are two new 325-foot multiuse ballfields with dedicated parking for 104 cars, as well as a new restroom and maintenance building that repeat architectural elements of the water treatment facility. Outfield, infield and backstop fencing will be steel mesh to match the dog park enclosures. Cast-in-place concrete seatwalls provide a place for spectators. A traffic-calming raised walkway (also used the dog parking area) leads from the parking lot to the fields, easing potential for conflicts between pedestrian and automobile.

In summary, these three different uses – ballfields, off-leash activity area and xeriscape demonstration garden – will be brought together in a cohesive, fresh way with the hardscape and landscape of the project. The lower terrace of the park will remain a lush green belt and a place for exercise of the body and dog. Our goal is that the stepping ribbons of colorful gardens up the slopes of the wash and the community gathering places created, will be an urban dweller's place for renewal and connection with nature. The park visitor will leave with an appreciation of our most precious resource – water. If water is used wisely, such as the east terrace xeriscape, it enriches urban life and habitat and sets an example that saving water in our daily lives affords us the luxury of the green public park atmosphere of the Indian Bend Greenbelt below.

Right of Way (Proposed)

Existing Curb
 Effect of Proposed
 Proposed Right of Way

Effect of Proposed

Existing Retaining Wall

Right of Way (Proposed)

Existing Retaining Wall

Right of Way (Proposed)

Proposed Retaining Wall

Existing Retaining Wall

Existing Curb

Proposed Right of Way

Proposed Right of Way



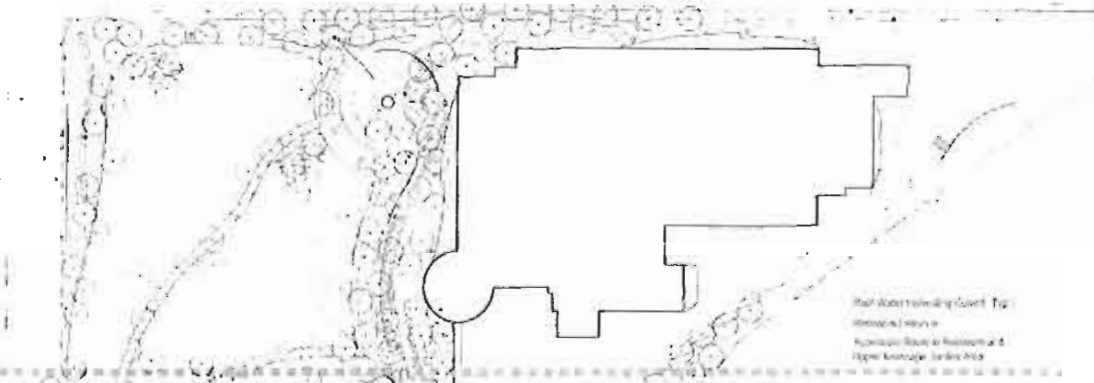
Existing Retaining Wall
 Existing Water Retaining
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Proposed Retaining Wall
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Proposed Pump Station (Proposed By City of WY)
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 Proposed Pump Station
 Proposed Pump Station

Proposed Pump Station
 Proposed Pump Station

MCDONALD DRIVE



Proposed Water Retaining Wall
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Chaparral Park Extension

63-PA-02#3

Site Plan

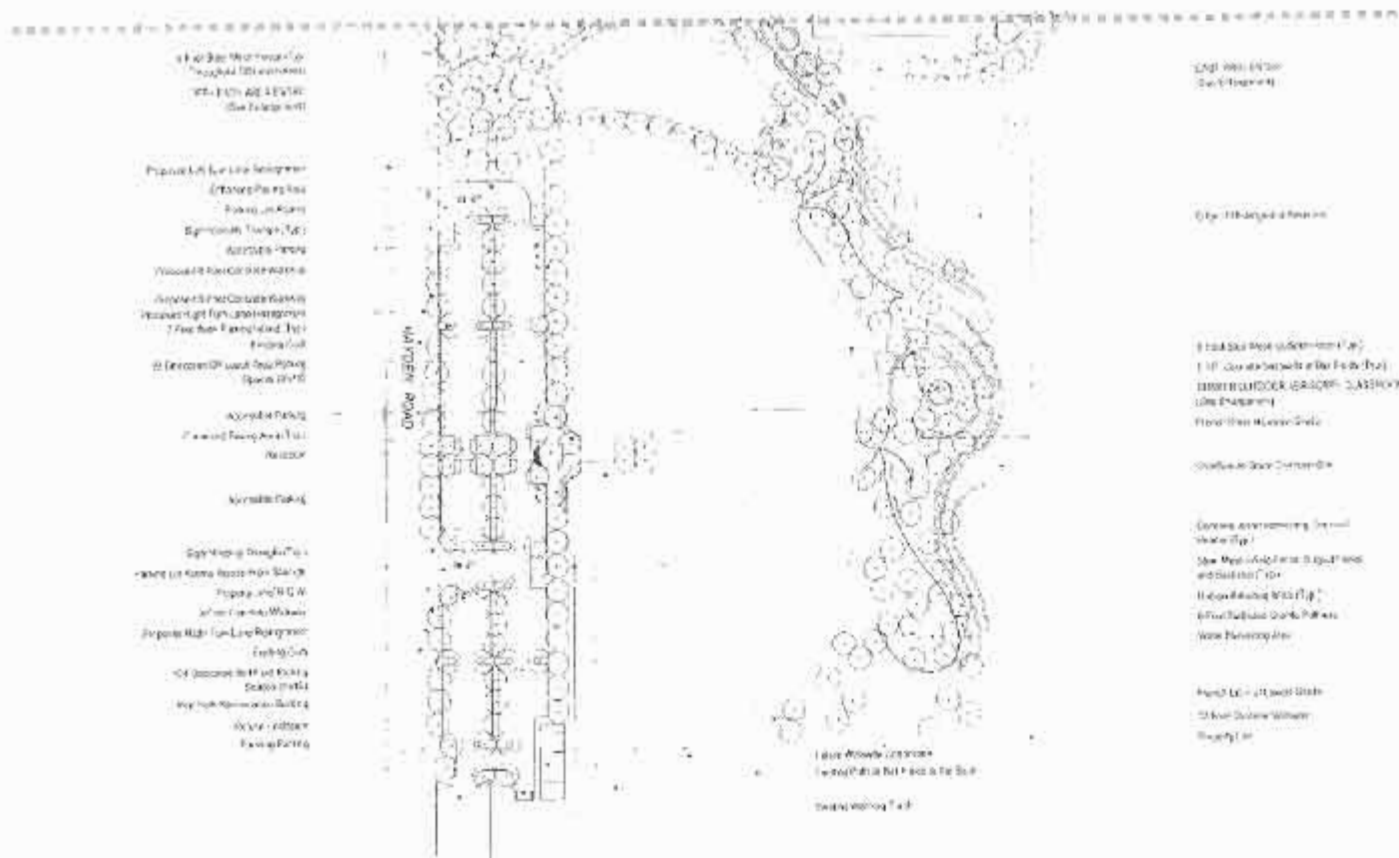
May 19, 2003

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 CORPORATION

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SAUNDERS PARTNERS
 ARCHITECTS

40-DR-2003
 05/19/2003



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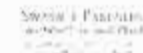
Proposed 1/8" = 1' Scale

Chaparral Park Extension

Site Plan

May 19, 2003

63-PA-0283



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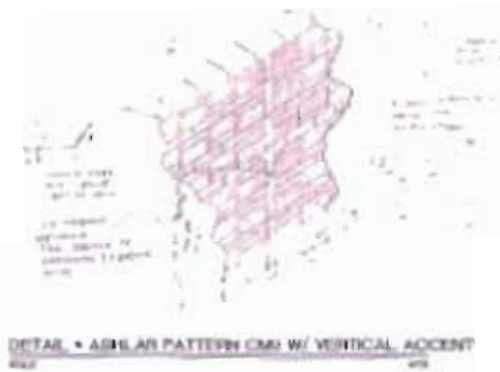
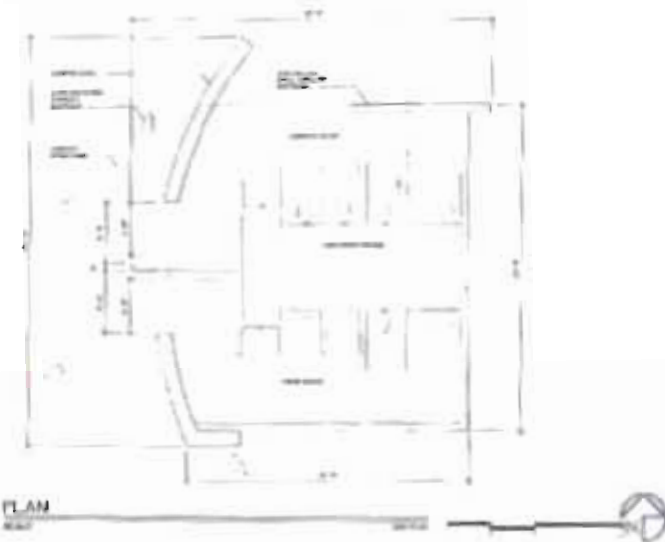
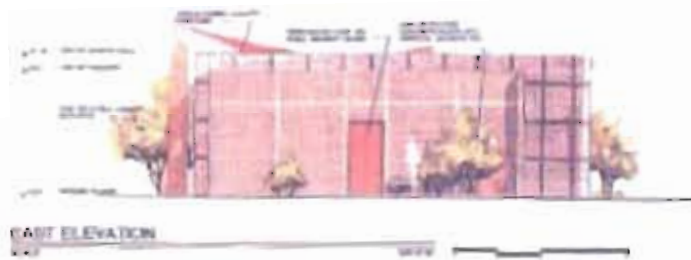
Chaparral Park Extension Maintenance Building Plans and Elevations

MAY 18, 2003

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Chaparral Park Extension Restroom Plans and Elevations

May 18, 2003

63-PA-0293

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